Vol. 64, No. 49 Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. Home of Air Dominance Training Dec. 16, 2005

In brief

No Gulf Defender

The Gulf Defender will not be published Dec. 23 or Dec. 30 due to the holidays. It will resume publication Jan. 6.

Holiday hours

The Tyndall Fitness Center is going to holiday hours. It will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 24; closed Dec. 25 and 26; open from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 27-30; open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 31; and open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jan 1. For more information, call the Fitness Center at 283-2631.

Operation Jr. Raptor

Volunteers are needed Jan. 20 and 21 to help with Operation Jr. Raptor, a mock deployment program for children. Parents need to register their children for the event by Jan. 13 if they plan to attend. Contact the Family Support Center at 283-4204 to sign-up as a volunteer or for more information.

What's inside



NCO Academy grads ... PAGE 6



SNCO Academy grads ... PAGE 7



Happy Holidays!

Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander, sings carols with children from the Tyndall Youth Center at the **Tree Lighting Ceremony Dec. 9** near Flag Park here. The ceremony included live music, free hot chocolate and cookies, and a visit from Santa Claus.

Tyndall Raptors drop first JDAMs at Nellis

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN ROJEK

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Tyndall pilots dropped joint direct attack munitions from F-22A Raptors for the first time during a recent deployment to Nellis AFB, Nev.

The 43rd Fighter Squadron and Aircraft Maintenance Unit left Tyndall Dec. 3 for the twoweek deployment, Tyndall's first full Raptor squadron training deployment to Nellis.

The deployed team, more than 100 people including operations, maintenance and support, was there to participate in both an air-to-ground delivery exercise and an air dominance exercise. Their missions included going up against surface-to-air missile systems and air-to-air systems. They also participated in U.S. Air Force Weapons School missions.

"This was pretty huge for the weapons loaders," said Capt. Rognald Christensen, 43rd AMU officer in charge. "They got to load the JDAMs and the jets came back without them. This was a first for us."

During the first week of the air-to-ground de-

livery exercise, the Raptors dropped nine JDAMs, with eight hitting their targets, said Lt. Col. Michael Stapleton, 43rd Fighter Squadron commander. A problem caused one bomb to tumble out of the plane and miss the target.

The Raptor did very well during the air dominance exercise as well, said Colonel Stapleton.

"Some of the scenarios we've gone into are very complicated," he said. "I've flown in 50 to 60 of these weapons school mission employment

scenarios as an instructor. In an F-15 it was not easy. Flying the Raptor in those scenarios was easy."

But, there were still some mistakes made along the way, he said.

"A lot of the mistakes we've made have been



An F-22A Raptor prepares for take off Dec. 3 before heading to Nellis AFB, Nev., for a two-week deployment.

in how we've integrated with the other forces," said the colonel. "We have learned a tremendous amount in how to integrate, and that will make us a much better Air Force."

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Master Sgt. Shawn Lamb

Big boom

An F-22A Raptor is refueled recently by a KC-10 Stratotanker enroute to Nellis AFB, Nev. The Raptor is one of six deployed from Tyndall to take part in air-to-ground training at Nellis, as well participate in U.S. Air Force Weapons School mission employment training.

Identify this...



Can you identify this object? If so, send an e-mail to editor@tyndall.af.mil with "Identify This" in the subject line. Three correct entries will be chosen at random and drawn from a hat to select the final winner. The prize can be claimed at the Public Affairs office.

The winner for the Dec. 9 "Identify This" is Airman 1st Class Heidi Theuret, 325th Fighter Wing chaplain assistant. She correctly guessed it was an audio cassette tape. Congratulations Airman Theuret. Come claim your prize!

ON THE **STREET**

What do you want for Christmas?



"I want a Nintendo DS. It would be entertaining and last longer than most stuff."



"I want a Bratz doll named Jasmine. She's beautiful."

KRISTOPHER SOTO
10 years old



"I asked Santa for a teddy bear."

ADRYAN McLENDON 5 years old



"I want Christmas lights and a football."

Morgan Mills

3 years old

BLAKE WEATHERSBY

2 years old

Gulf Defender Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton	325th FW commander
Maj. Susan A. Romano	chief, 325th FW public affairs
Ms. Chrissy Cuttita	chief, internal information
2nd Lt. William Powell	deputy chief, internal information
Staff Sqt. Benjamin Rojek	editor

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The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425 or e-mailed to editor@tyndall.af.mil. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*.

For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

Commentary

View from the Top: Have safe, wonderful holiday season

GEN. WILLIAM R. LOONEY III

Air Education and Training Command commander

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) – The holidays are an important time to reflect on the past year and give thanks for our family, our friends and the opportunity to serve the American people in the greatest Air and Space Force the world has ever known.

This year, the Airmen of the First Command were presented with many challenges: recruiting, training and educating our future force; preparing for and responding to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and engaging in the Global War on Terror. You met each of these challenges with the integrity, excellence and selfless service that are the hallmarks of our command.

But we all know that without the sup-

where we are today—as individuals or as a team. We certainly would not have been able to achieve this year's tremendous successes. That's why I encourage you to take a break from the speed of everyday life during this holiday season to enjoy time with the people who are most important to you.

As you reflect on this past year, remember the Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines who are fighting in the Global War on Terrorism. Remember in your prayers and in your actions families who are separated during the holidays ... this is a tough time for them and they need our support. Remember those Americans who have lost loved ones in this struggle ... because while the rest of our citizens enjoy this season of celebration, they bear

port of our families, we would not be an especially heavy burden. These families need to know that their loved ones died serving a noble cause. Each generation of Americans has answered the call to sacrifice for the values we cherish, and this generation is no different. We are fighting the Global War on Terrorism for our children and our children's children. Thanks to those who have paid the ultimate price—and those who continue the fight—our families will enjoy the blessings of liberty for years to come.

> Still others faced heart-wrenching losses this year, and we must remember them. For those who are still recovering from this unprecedented hurricane season, know that the Air Force is behind you every step of the way. Nothing is more important than family – and you are a part of ours. You can continue to rely on us.

Finally, to all our Airmen and their families: Be safe! If just one piece of a jigsaw puzzle is missing, your eyes are immediately drawn to the absent part. The same principle applies to our command. We are an interdependent team, and each of you is vital to our success. When even one piece of the AETC puzzle is missing, we all feel it. Use common sense and personal risk management while traveling and enjoying holiday activities.

Savor the holidays, and come back whole, healthy, refreshed and fully prepared to do your part to make 2006 a benchmark year for the First Command. My wife, Marilyn, and I wish you a wondrous holiday season, and we wish you health, happiness, and success in 2006 as we continue to develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow.

Holiday greetings from Tyndall's wing commander

BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON

What a year it's been! We accomplished Team Tyndall's mission with exceptional style all the while performing at a marathoner's pace. From qualifying the former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper in an F-22A to a very successful Air Show in May, to the stupendous job the 325th Fighter Wing did during the AETC ORI, and let's not forget the outstanding support generated during the several major hurricanes that hit the Gulf Coast. All I can say is WOW!

And through it all, the men and women of Tyndall Air Force Base performed magnificently. Each and every one of you on Team Tyndall contributed in significant ways to accomplishing your unit's mission. Those of you in the 325th FW... thank you for TRAINING AMERICA'S AIR DOMI-NANCE FORCE! I am extremely proud of you ... you have made Tyndall shine in countless ways.

As we go forward during this holiday season, many Team



From left: Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander, Moe Egginton, Donna Dickerson, and Col. Brian Dickerson, 325th FW vice commander.

Tyndall members are preparing to deploy for Air Expeditionary Force 9/10. Although it's hard at any time to leave family and friends behind, it's even more difficult during the holidays. I ask that you remember our brave fighting forces in your thoughts and prayers and actions, and hope for a safe and speedy return. Remember ... We are all AIRMEN and are WINGMEN to all other AIRMEN.

As Americans, and particularly as Americans who wear the uniform, this is a time of year to reflect on past accomplishments, savor the moment, and look to the future for new and improved ways to make our country stronger and better. There is no doubt we all face hurdles we must overcome, but I have been witness to your dedication to duty, your unquestionable integrity and your constant focus on excellence. You are true professionals, and it is through your exceptional work that we remain the strongest and greatest nation and Air

• SEE HOLIDAYS PAGE 21

Action Line Call 283-2255 Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton 325th Fighter Wing commander

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It you are unable to resolve the problem, call me is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a re-

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you're not satisfied with the response or

at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General's Office, 283-4646.

Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

Below are more phone numbers that help you in resolving any issues with a base agency.

283-4825
283-4191
283-7515
283-2739

/IPF	283-2276
SFS Desk Sgt.	283-2254
Services	283-2501
.egal	283-4681
lousing	283-2036
CDC	283-4747
Ving Safety	283-4231
Area Defense Counsel	283-2911
inance	283-4117
Civil Engineer	283-4949
Civilian Personnel	283-3203
Base Information	283-1113

Thank you for helping me improve Tyndall and I look forward to hearing from you.

Standard federal ID to replace CACs

ARMY SGT. SARA WOOD

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — A new, standardized identification card is being developed for all federal employees.

The new card will replace the common access cards that military personnel, government civilians and contractors now hold, said Mary Dixon, deputy director of the Defense Manpower Data Center.

The new cards will look much the same as CACs, with a few changes, Mrs. Dixon said. The color scheme will be different and more information will be embedded in the card, she said.

The added information will be a biometric of two fingerprints, to be used for identification purposes, and a string of numbers that will allow physical access to buildings, Mrs. Dixon said.

The biggest change will be the addition of wireless

technology, which will allow the cards to be read by a machine from a short distance away, Mrs. Dixon said. This will make the new cards much easier to use for access to buildings than CACs, which must be swiped through a reader, she said.

The new cards themselves will not be enough to grant access to all federal buildings, Mrs. Dixon said. Rather, they will be checked against each building's database to determine if an individual has access.

A prototype of the new card is being developed and will be finalized in the next couple of months, Mrs. Dixon said.

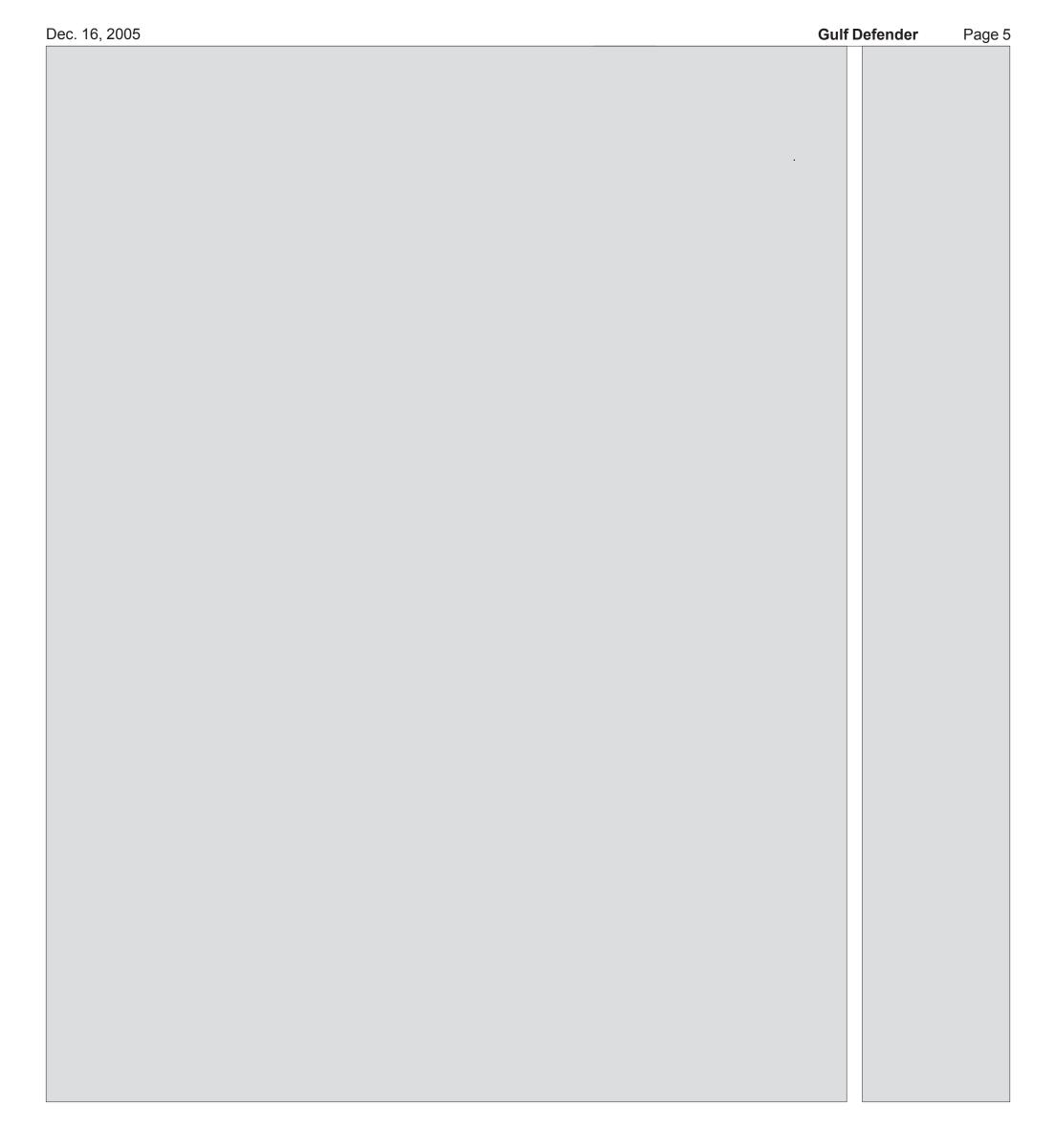
The cards will be issued starting in October 2006 to all military personnel, government civilians and qualified contractors. In the Defense Department, all employees should have the new cards within three and a half years, she said. A timeline has not been set for the rest of the federal government.



Help keep Tyndall clean!
It's up to all of us to keep our base looking
beautiful. Do your part; if you see trash, pick it up!







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Senior AF official visits Tyndall, learns mission

2nd Lt. William Poweli

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The new Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Logistics toured Tyndall Dec. 7–9 to learn more about the Air Force and its unique mission.

Bill Anderson, sworn in Nov. 3 at the Air Force Academy, is responsible for every Air Force installation in the world, yet his trip to Tyndall marked only his second time on an Air Force base.

"It's clear that the training done here is absolutely outstanding," he said. "I've been very, very impressed."

The Tyndall visit was his second stop in a 90-day assimilation tour to become familiar with the Air Force and the needs of its Airmen

"In order for me to do this job effectively, I have to get out and travel to the bases to see the impact of the decisions we're making," said Mr. Anderson. "I'm seeing the different commands and functions our Air Force personnel accomplish, which I'm learning involves much more than flying and maintaining aircraft."

After serving in a variety of financial, tax consulting and environmental health and safety positions throughout his civilian career, Mr. Anderson said he felt it was time to give back and serve those who serve others.

"I've been very lucky in my professional and personal life, but (Sept. 11, 2001) changed the way I looked at things," he said. "My grandfather, father, father-in-law and brother all served in the military during combat, and this position now gives me the opportunity to serve."

As assistant secretary, he heads three division departments that deal at the policy level with Air Force facility and logistical issues. The department's responsibilities include installations, military construction, base closure and realignment; environment, safety and occupational health issues; and all logistical matters.

Mr. Anderson said even though he doesn't have any prior military experience, he believes his extensive commercial and business experience, combined with a "fresh set of eyes" on the mission, can benefit the military.

"The issues I'm responsible for are essen-



Steve Wallace

Staff Sgt. Scott Petrie, left, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron, and Master Sgt. Benny Beach, 325th CES, explain the function of the Jet Remote Opening Device to Mr. Bill Anderson Dec. 8 here.

tially the business end of the Air Force – moving equipment around, fixing equipment, taking care of environmental health and safety issues and taking care of bricks and mortar," Mr. Anderson said.

"The Core Values seem to bind everything and everyone together," he said. "(Everyone) has such a great commitment to integrity, their organization and this country. I've seen it here at Tyndall, at the Pentagon and other places I've visited, and it's tremendously impressive."

Congratulations to Tyndall's NCO Academy graduates!

(Editor's note: The following technical sergeants graduated from NCO Academy Thursday.)

Clyde Rolfe Suzanne Cournoyer Jason Rudy Bryan Koch Herbert Harrell Sara Ancic Sharon Randall Chester Bowman Jake Burkett Rahmann Whitley Brian Denny Daniel Cruz Yasmeen Wilson Frank Hitchcock Kevin Lynch William Feil Robert Campbell SSgt. Jimmy Sanders Dec. 16, 2005 Gulf Defender Page 7

Congratulations to Tyndall's SNCO Academy graduates!

SMSgt. Sharon Herron

MSgt. Anthony Simmons

MSgt. Alan Weatherly

MSgt. Robert Mayor

MSgt. Richard Allen Jr.

SMSgt. Robert Hague

SMSgt. Ernest Ragadio

Air Force releases new mission statement

MASTER SGT. MITCH GETTLE

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – The realities of the world have changed dramatically since the creation of the Air Force in 1947 and continue to change almost daily.

With these changes in mind, Air Force leaders released a new mission statement Dec. 7 that defines the current and future direction of the Air Force.

"Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting and filled with a wide range of challenges," Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley wrote in a joint Letter to Airmen. "Our mission is our guiding compass, and now more than ever we need it to be clear and precise."

The mission statement defines the "where and what" the Air Force accomplishes on a daily basis:

The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests – to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.

The statement includes two new concepts, "sovereign options" and "cyberspace," which the secretary and chief defined.

They said having sovereign options is the essence of being a superpower.

"Our task is to provide the president, the combatant commanders and our nation with an array of options ... options that are not limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy's defenses," they said. "With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world."

The term cyberspace includes network security, data transmission and the sharing of information.

"We have quite a few of our Airmen dedicated to cyberspace ... from security awareness, making sure the networks can't be penetrated, as well as figuring out countermeasures," Secretary Wynne said. "The Air Force is a natural leader in the cyber world and we thought it would be best to recognize that talent."

Adversaries of the United States will use any method or venue necessary to contest America, and it is an Airman's calling to dominate air, space and cyberspace, the leaders said.

Using past air power pioneers as examples of understanding the mission, they said, "The Air Force's mission statement has evolved over time, but it does not change the nature of who we are or what we do."

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Tyndall, 325th CS lose one of their own to cancer

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

"He was a bedrock, and I'm going to miss him a lot," said Roger Crooks about his late friend, Bill Hill. Pausing as if to hold back the tears, Mr. Crooks continued, "There's a void here that will be hard to fill."

Mr. Hill passed away Dec. 1 after a long battle with lung and bone cancer that had spread throughout his body. He had been a member of the 325th Communications Squadron for more than 16 years, and most recently served as the deputy squadron commander and plans flight chief.

Lt. Col. Douglas Barron, the 325th CS commander for less than three weeks, said he unfortunately never had the chance to meet Mr. Hill, but after talking to squadron members and Mr. Hill's family, he feels like he had.

"Mr. Hill was obviously a well-respected man who had a great impact on the Tyndall mission because I have never seen so much support for one man," Colonel Barron said. "His loss shook the entire squadron, and all the squadron members, as well as many members from the wing, came together to support Mr. Hill's family."

"He was well respected throughout the base for his positive attitude and quality work," said Col. Marc Luiken, 325th Mission Support Group commander. "He had a great record, and is sorely missed by his flight and his squadron. I know I'm joined by all members of the 325th MSG in conveying our heartfelt condolences to his family."

Prior to his civilian position at the 325th CS, Mr. Hill served 20 years in the Air Force in communications. According to his wife, Dorothy, Mr. Hill followed a long line of family members who served in the military dating all the way back to the Civil War. Both his father and his grandfather were killed in war. His son now serves in the Army.

"His family was very patriotic, feeling the need to keep our country free from harm," she said.

Perhaps the only thing Mr. Hill loved more than his country was his grandchildren, according to Mr. Crooks,

Mr. Hill's coworker and friend since 1989.

"He was a devoted family man to his wife, kids and grandkids," Mr. Crooks said. "Even at his worst day, if the conversation ever got on the subject of his grandkids, you



Jim Bellesbach

Bill Hill, 325th Communications Squadron, recently passed away.

could see the spark in his eye. He loved those kids something terrible.

"We also had a wonderful relationship," he continued. "He was the guy I would talk to if I was having a bad day or a problem. I will never forget him, and I'll see him again someday."

Congratulations to the 325th MDG's AETC Air Force Medical Service Award winners!

(Editor's note: The following members and units of the 325th Medical Group recently won the Air Education and Training Command's Air Force Medical Service Awards. They are now nominated for the Air Force level.)

Dental Award (NCO): Staff Sgt. Dawn Jessen

Nursing Service Brig. Gen. Sarah P. Wells Award (Airman):

Airman 1st Class Marcello Mennome

Senior Aerospace Medical Service Functional Manager:

Senior Master Sgt. Pamela Hiller

Col. Gary Wasem Physical Medicine Team:

325th MDG Physical Therapy Flight

Physician Assistant David Gwinn (field grade): Maj. Timothy Howerton

Social Worker (company grade): Capt. Tina Nelson

Clinical Optimization Award: 325th Medical Operations Squadron

Medical readiness/aeromedical evacuation (civilian): Mr. James Koss

Team Aerospace: 325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron

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Tyndall Airman makes good impression here, in Iraq

TECH. SGT. PAUL DEAN

407th Air Expeditionary Group public affairs

ALI BASE, Iraq—Three years experience in a sister service gave a 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron military policeman a good foundation for his current position, the edge in an Air Force competition and the drive to accomplish his goals.

Going blue almost two years ago, the discipline of Army Airborne Infantry carried Staff Sgt. Cesar Flores to the top at Airman Leadership School, earning the John L. Levitow award for Class 12-05 at Tyndall, which was a precursor to his latest accomplishment: Air Education and Training Command's Outstanding Security Forces Airman.

Sergeant Flores will now compete with winners from the other MAJCOM's for the Air Force level winner. But his current focus is to keep doing his job and expand his capabilities.

"I really care about my job and look at the things I'm doing here as making me a better Airman," he said.

Being assigned to the military police section – dealing with on-base law and

- is a new deployed experience for Ser- lition partners. It's not uncommon for ofgeant Flores.

"Air base defense, convoy security, combat patrols – these are all things that are second nature for an Army Infantryman," he said. But as a military policeman he's getting valuable experience in another aspect of security forces: reporting and tracking procedures, administrative challenges, and added emphasis on internal and external communication skills.

Sergeant Flores is also learning a lot about cooperation as he interacts

order in a Coalition and joint environment frequently with sister services and Coa-

fenses and investigations to cross service and international boundaries, so each of the base tenants has security teams that interact and cooperate.

"He's a real asset to the provost marshal's office," said Senior Master Sgt. Marc ESFS military police superintendent. Especially in dealing with the unit's largest customer base: the 6,000 Army servicemembers stationed (at Ali Base). "He's re-

members the Army language and has stepped up to the plate, taking on additional responsibilities and teaching his fellow patrolmen about Army procedures."

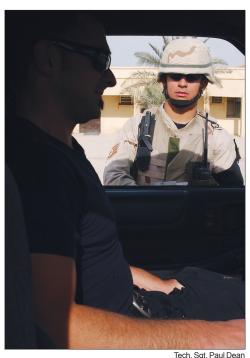
Sergeant Flores served in both the 75th Ranger Regiment and the 82nd Airborne during his Army service.

This is the longest of Sergeant Flores' three deployments (he's been to Kosovo and Russia), but that hasn't dampened his resolve.

"This is where the rubber meets the road," he said. "This is what we're paid to do. And I'd volunteer to come back and do it again."

That's the kind of attitude that makes Melcher, 407th him a great Airman, said 407th ESFS commander Maj. Joseph A. Engelbrecht III. "Sergeant Flores is a professional Airman with the right attitude. As a military policeman in a joint environment, he's facing unique challenges and meeting them all. Within this joint environment he's exactly the type of Airman I want representing the Air Force to the other services on base."

Sergeant Flores is deployed from the ally unique. He re- 325th Security Forces Squadron.



Staff Sgt. Cesar Flores, 407th **Expeditionary Security Forces** Squadron, talks to the driver of a stopped vehicle near an entry control point at Ali Base, Iraq.

Thunderbirds need applicants in eight AFSCs

STAFF SGT. JOSH CLENDENEN

The United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron is looking for professionals to join an elite team known world-wide for precision flying and community involvement. Volunteers are needed in eight career fields.

"The Thunderbirds have more than 34 career fields represented in the squadron," said Chief Master Sgt. Ted Field, chief enlisted manager of the Thunderbirds. "We have a job for just about everyone out there."

The Air Force Specialty Codes needed are 2A3X2 Avionics, 2A3X3B Crew Chief, 2A6X3 Egress, 2A6X4 Fuels, 2A6X6 Electro/Environmental, 2A7X3 Structures, 3N0X1 Public Affairs, 3V0X1 Graphic Artist and 8F000 First Sergeant.

For information on the application process, visit www.airforce.com/thunderbirds.

"Even if (a) career field is not listed, we are accepting applications," Chief Field said. "Anyone can submit an application for a job in one of the (34) career fields we have. We'll keep the application on file for six months, and if a job comes open we will look at the applications we have and we'll try to fill them with those."

One of the common misconceptions about the Thunderbirds is the team is gone all the time.

"We do travel across the United States and in some cases across the world," Chief Field said. "But we're not gone all the time. We have a good amount of time at home, but we do travel."

During the season, a typical week begins on Thursday when the team travels to its show site. Pilots fly their aircraft and support personnel typically travel in a C-17. As soon as the jets touch down, technicians recover their aircraft and perform post-flight tasks. Meanwhile, public affairs prepares for enlistment and re-enlistment ceremonies, media interviews and orientation flights.

Communications specialists videotape the arrival and landing. The advance pilot, having arrived the day before, briefs the team on subjects including transportation and the

Friday is usually a practice day, giving the Thunderbird pilots an opportunity to become familiar with the terrain and local landmarks. Crew chiefs and their assistants attend to pre-flight tasks.

After the practice flight, the team meets with members of the community whose special needs might prevent them from attending a crowded show. On Saturday and Sunday, the team flies its full show and meets with



Staff Sgt. Scott Grabham, crew chief for the United States Air Force "Thunderbirds," fills out forms after a successful day of flying in New York.

the crowd to sign autographs for 20 minutes.

On Monday, the team heads back to Nellis AFB, Nev., then goes back to work Tuesday.

"It seems really busy, and to some extent it is, but the people you get to meet with on the road make it all worthwhile," Chief Field said.

"The bottom line is an assignment to the Thunderbirds is the chance of a lifetime," the chief said.

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Associate Spotlight

Shane Ferrell



Lisa Norman

Shane Ferrell receives the Associate Spotlight award from Maj. Ann Birchard, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron/Detachment 1, commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Shane Ferrell, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron/Det.1. As project manager of vehicle maintenance, he keeps the vehicles and equipment that "go to war" running at the Silver Flag Exercise Training Site. A no-notice vehicle inspection resulted in a 100 percent "Excellent" rating.

Duty title: Vehicle maintenance project manager

Time on station: Six years, 10 months Hometown: Panama City, Fla. Hobbies: Working on cars, hunting Favorite magazine: "Hot Rod" Favorite movie: All comedies

Favorite thing about Tyndall: Constant work flow; something different to work on every day (fire trucks to Humvees to Mseries)

Pet Peeves: Dishonesty

Goals: Be happy

Proudest moment in the military: Being part of the winning team during

Silver Fest Sports Day competition

other items presented by their unit.

The Associate Spotlight is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize a Warrior from one of Tyndall's tenant units. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate from the wing commander and

CONSTRUCTION

Phase II of construction at the Sabre Gate is underway. This portion of work will last approximately four months. This phase of construction will allow for only outbound traffic flow through the Sabre Gate. Inbound access for military family housing residents and Youth Center, Golf Course, and Marina Club employees will be through School Road Gate.

All inbound traffic through School Road Gate will be required to turn right onto DeJarnette Road, and all outbound traffic on Sabre Drive will not be permitted to turn right on DeJarnette Road. All other inbound traffic should use the main gate at Illinois Avenue.

Checkertail Salute

Tech. Sgt. Roy Anderson Jr.



Steve Wallace

Sergeant Anderson receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Sergeant Anderson, 325th Medical Support Squadron. He and his flight recently performed a perfect equipment inventory, with 100 percent accuracy on more than 1,000 items. He also has volunteered more than 100 off-duty hours as a Boy Scout leader and assistant soccer coach.

Duty title: NCO in charge of medical

maintenance

Time on station: Two years

Time in service: Ten years, nine months

Hometown: Frederick, Md. **Hobbies:** Windsurfing

Favorite movie: "The Big Lebowski"
Favorite book: "Catcher in the Rye" by

J.D. Salinger

officer

Favorite thing about Tyndall: The ocean

Pet peeves: Acting irresponsible **Goals:** Become a medical services corp

Proudest moment in the military:

Making technical sergeant in 10 years

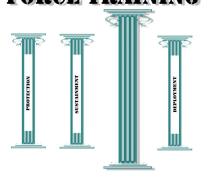
The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall's Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.

The Gulf Defender is published for people like Senior Airman Carl Cassulo, 325th Maintenance Squadron precision guided munitions crew member.





FORCE TRAINING



Training Spotlight

Does staring at dots all day on a screen hurt your eyes?

No. Being on the scope is like reading a book; your eyes hurt for a little bit, but it's not too bad."



2ND LT. BYRON SCHALK 325th Air Control Squadron air battle manager student

Student Focus

MU-2 pilots bring students from sims to real-world

CHRISSY CUTTITA

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

What do air battle management students need when learning how to control the skies on their scope?

Airplanes, of course.

Nine former military pilots, contracted by Air 1st Aviation Companies, Inc., are eager to fly Mitsubishi MU-2 flight training aircraft in support of the 325th Air Control Squadron's lesson plan for students.

"Every day the wing is flying we fly twice, rain or shine unless the weather is too bad for us," said retired Col. Don Joyner, a former Air Force F-111 pilot who schedules and flies Air 1st aircraft here.

Air 1st has been providing contracted training flight services at Tyndall since 1998, operating and maintaining a fleet of eight Mitsubishi aircraft in excess of 4,000 flight hours per year.

"They provide an introduction to controlling live aircraft for the first time," said Capt. James Eustis, 325th ACS instructor. "Otherwise, they train on the simulator with an enlisted Airman acting as a pilot."

Each student controls eight MU-2 sorties and receives one flight in the aircraft to see the mission from a pilot's perspective.

"We provide them a platform, one-half to one-third the speed of a high-performance jet," said Mr. Joyner. "Instructors choose what play book scenario they want the student to experience and we provide the environment."

Pilots fly in different formations and make many types of calls on the radio to get students experienced in what they will see and

> hear as operational air battle managers.

> "We enjoy flying with them," said retired Marine Maj. Dave Henry, MU-2 pilot and former A-6 Intruder pilot. "We do specific maneuvers so they can see what it looks like on their scope. We are working with some high-caliber, motivated students."

> One student recalled his enjoyable experience controlling a large force deployment of MU-2s.

"We talked over real radio, which is different than the simulator that has perfect scenarios," said 2nd Lt. Brian Barber, who said the experienced fighter pilots pretended to be MiGs.

Students have to learn the terminology to communicate with pilots in the air. It isn't just a simple phrase like "I see two planes flying head to head." Instead, it requires a complex combination of information such as the mileage the planes are apart, their precise location using a reference and an assessment of which direction the planes are going.

Enemy aircraft are known as "red" and friendlies are known as "blue." MU-2 pilots pretend to be both. The "blue" usually act like F-15 Eagles, using the same types of tactics the aircraft uses because students will train with the F-15 squadrons here before they graduate.

On a typical day, MU-2 pilots get their mission brief, step to the aircraft, take off, make simulated radio calls to say they spot the enemy and are ready for air-to-air combat. On the other side, ABM students listen in and help the aircraft maneuver in the air space.

"It changes their perspective when they fly (with us)," said retired Col. Rich White, MU-2 pilot and former member of the 95th Fighter Squadron. "It's interesting to see how flying evolved."

"What is amazing to see is the way these kids out of college progress and learn," said Mr. Joyner. "The schoolhouse has an intensive program to get them up to speed. We provide the environment to keep up their proficiency."

"We have a real good working relationship with them," said Captain Eustis.



Retired Col. Don Joyner, Air 1st Aviation Companies, Inc., contract manager and chief pilot, completes a preflight inspection on an MU-2.

By the book

First Lt. Ryan Bernier, **Fighter** 95th **Squadron B-Course** student, checks the maintenance forms to ensure the F-15 Eagle is ready to fly Monday. This was his second training flight since he began pilot training here Oct. 27.



F-15 Eagle B-Course progress chart 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100% Class# Dec. 20 2005HBT 2005IBT Jan. 9 2005JBT Feb. 6 2005KBT March 10 April 5 2005LBT

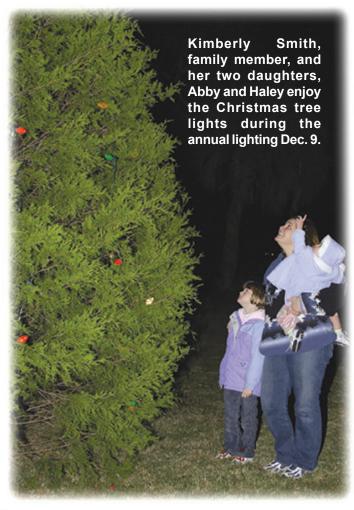
A Tyndall Christmas















Airman 1st Class Cameron Sapp, 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron, escorts guests into the Golden Age holiday party at the Enlisted Club Dec. 7.

Left: At the Golden Age holiday party the couple married longest received a gift from Santa, otherwise known as Master Sgt. Albert Lewis, 325th Fighter Wing career advisor.

Bottom: Cheryl Haswell, a member of the Officers' Spouses Club, puts cookie plates together for the Airmen in the dormitories. The OSC sponsored the cookie drive and passed out the cookies on Monday.



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Briefs

RAO volunteers

The Retiree Activities Office is seeking volunteers to assist with the various tasks associated with running the office. The RAO is an all-volunteer organization that provides assistance and information to Tyndall's retiree community on retiree-related issues. Those interested in volunteering should contact the office by e-mail at tyndall.RAO@tyndall.af.mil or call 283-2737.

Clinic phone numbers

The 325th Medical Group advises patients that they may use the central appointments line, 283-2778, to conduct business with both Family Practice and Flight Medicine. The automated system allows patients to choose the clinic desired and, if the number is busy, the call will be queued until a staff member can take the call. This same number can be used to reach medical staff after hours and on weekends. Patients may continue to use the front desk numbers during regular business hours: 283-7535 for Flight Medicine and 283-7501 for Family Practice.

AADD volunteers

Airmen Against Drunk Driving is looking for volunteers. The hours of operations are 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Volunteers must be E-1s through E-4s. Those interested in volunteering can call 867-0220, or e-mail Airman 1st Class Brandon Krueger at brandon.krueger@tyndall.af.mil.

ANG opportunities

The 109th Airlift Wing, in Scotia, N.Y., home of the LC-130 Ski-Birds, has traditional guard vacancies in many career fields. They also have positions open through the rank of major for prior service navigators qualified in any airframe. For more information on these positions or on Palace Chase and Palace Front, call Master Sgt. James Reeves, 109th AW recruiting office supervisor at (800) 524-5070, DSN 344-2457 or by e-mail at 109aw@recruiting.goang.com. Those people interested can also go online to www.skibird.com.

Vehicle decal reminder

The 325th Security Forces Squadron would like to remind all Department of Defense motorists that it might be time to update your vehicle base access stickers.

Gulf Guide

All I want is ...

Robert Smith, son of Tech. Sgt. Richard Pratt, 28th Test Squadron, gives Santa a hug Dec. 3 at the Youth Center's Christmas breakfast. The center served breakfast for more than 440 children and their parents.



If your vehicle's year sticker reads "05," you have until Dec. 31 to renew your decal with Pass & Registration.

A valid DOD identification card, current driver's license, current state registration form and current proof of insurance card must physically be presented for each vehicle to receive a new decal.

Tyndall's new Pass & Registration building is located on US Highway 98, directly across from Sabre Gate, and is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday. For more information, call 283-4191.

Facility managers training

The facility managers make-up training is scheduled from 8-11:30 a.m. and noon to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 7 at the NCO Academy auditorium. For more information, call CE customer service at 283-4948/4949.

Military family employment specialist

A Military Family Employment Specialist will be available at the Family Support Center 8:30-11:30 a.m. every Wednesday. The employment specialist is available to assist military spouses with job placement and referral for positions in the Panama City area and to register spouses in the workforce employment system. For more information or to make an appointment, call the FSC at 283-4204.

GCCC schedule

Gulf Coast Community College fees are due Jan. 2 and classes start Jan. 5. Tuition assistance forms are now available online. These forms may be brought by the GCCC office in the Tyndall Education Center or

faxed to the campus at 872-3836. In addition the college will be closing at 4 p.m. Dec. 23 and will reopen at 8 a.m. Jan. 2. For further information call 283-4332.

Commissary hours

The Commissary will open at 9 a.m. and close at 3 p.m. Christmas Eve Dec. 24. The Commissary will be closed Christmas

On New Year's Eve Dec. 31, the Commissary will be open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. It will be closed on New Year's Day.

Also, Santa Claus will be at the Commissary from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday. He will then be at the Base Exchange from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Parents who want photos must bring their own camera. There will be a small gift for each child.

Airman's Attic

Family Services and the Airman's Attic are open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday in Bldg. 747. Call the Family Services office at 283-4913 for more information.

Thrift Shop hours

The Thrift Shop will be closed Dec. 21-23 and 28-30 for the Christmas holiday. It will open Jan. 4 and be open for its first Saturday Jan. 7.

Normal operating hours are 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, with consignments from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Thrift Shop is located in Bldg. 743, across from the Post Office. For more information, call 286-5888.

Tyndall Chapel

Catholic services

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday, Chapel Two Reconciliation, before Saturday Mass or by appointment Saturday Mass, 5 p.m., Chapel Two Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m., Chapel Two Religious Education, 11 a.m., Bldg. 1476 Bell Choir, 4:30 p.m. Dec. 24 and 9 a.m. Dec. 25, Chapel Two Children's Vigil Mass, 5 p.m. Dec. 24, Chapel Two Christmas Day Mass, 9:30 a.m., Chapel Two

Protestant services

Traditional worship service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel One Contemporary worship service, 11 a.m., Chapel Two Wednesday Fellowship, 5 p.m., Chapel Two Candlelight/Communion Service, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 24, Chapel Two Christmas Traditional Service, 9:30 a.m. Dec. 25, Chapel One Christmas Contemporary Service, 11 a.m. Dec. 25, Chapel Two

Ecumenical services

Bell Choir, 4:30 p.m. Dec. 24, Chapel Two

Jewish services

Hanukkah Celebration, 6 p.m. Dec. 30, Temple B'Nai Israel Dec. 16, 2005 Gulf Defender Page 15



COMM before the storm

Demetric Jones, Southeast Air Defense Sector, drives the ball past Anthony Clouse, 325th Communications Squadron, during a game Wednesday night here. The 325th CS eventually defeated SEADS, 79-64. For more information on intramural sports, contact a squadron sports representative or call the Fitness Center at 283-2631.

Magic number is 13 for both Colts, Pig-Prog

PIGSKIN PROGNOSTICATOR

From the Sea town

Only three other NFL teams have done it: Started off a season 13-0. Indianapolis became number four last weekend.

I kept this is mind while making my picks for Week 15, but I was worried that Colts coach Tony Dungy would rest up his star players for the playoffs. Yet, for some reason I doubt that will happen. They say they're not aiming for 16-0, but who wouldn't want a number like that?

And looking at numbers, the teams who will be in the playoffs is slowly coming to light. It's pretty clear Seattle will be there, but that may be as far as they get. Cincinnati seems to have a good chance at their division title, as long as Pittsburgh loses. And even New England has a shot if Miami loses.

But who is going to the Super Bowl? I want to hear your predictions. If you think you know who is going to Super

Bowl XL, then tell me at editor@tyndall.af.mil.

Speaking of super, it seems that I, the supreme football guru, beat everyone this week with 13 correct picks. Sure, seven different squadrons scored 12 correct, but if that mattered, this would be the Horseshoe Prognosticator.

Even though I'm creeping up through the ranks with incredibly correct picks, no one seemed to care.

"AMXS has no plans of giving up first place," said Dennis Robison, 325th AMXS first sergeant. "The Prog has been making a steady charge to the front, but one good week does not make a season."

"The only thing we're worried about is the Pig-Prog paying up from when we spanked him head-to-head," said Mike Zarate, 325th SVS picker.

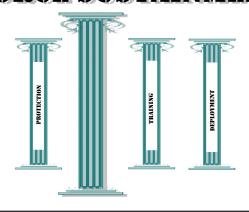
Yes, I did get served then, but now the spatula is in my hand.

Now, let's get out there and watch some football!

Prognosticator scorebox

Team	Week 14	Total
PIG-PRO	G 13	127
325th AMX	S 11	134
325th MOS	12	132
325th ACS	10	131
325th SVS	12	131
325th CS	11	130
325th CON	S 11	129
2nd FS	12	128
823rd RHS	10	125
325th CES	12	121
First Sgts.	11	119
325th MDO	S 0	116
325th CPTS	S 12	114
53rd WEG	12	104
AFRL	11	103
325th MXS	10	100
325th OG	0	99
325th MSS	10	95
NCOA	10	92
325th OSS	12	90

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



Intramural Sports Standings

Basketball

<u>Team</u>	W	<u>L</u>	<u>Team</u>	W	L
AMXS 3	4	0	COMM	3	2
95th FS	4	0	SVS	2	3
ACS	3	0	AFRL	1	3
AMXS 1	4	1	SFS	1	3
OSS	3	1	83rd FWS	0	4
AMXS 2	2	1	CES	0	5
MXS	2	1	601st EAOG	0	5

Bowling

<u>Team</u>	W	L I	<u>Team</u>	W	L
MXS-Phase	84	44	AFCESA	64	64
601st EAOG 2	80	48	CONS	63	65
MXS 1	78	50	CES	62	66
601st EAOG 1	76	54	OSS	60	68
MSS 1	74	54	53rd WEG	60	68
SFS	74	54	MXS-AMMO	58	70
CS 1	74	54	NCOA	58	70
IAM	72	56	MOS	57	71
TEST	72	56	RHS	56	72
MSS 2	72	56	ACS 2	56	72
1st AMU 3	72	57	SVS	55	73
AMXS	70	58	CS 2	52	76
1st AMU 1	68	60	MDG	50	78
1st AMU 2	66	62	ACS 1	50	78
83rd FWS 2	66	62	1st FS	48	80
83rd FWS 1	64	64	AAFES	32	96

Pig-Prog vs. 325th MSS

Tampa Bay @ New England **New England** Kansas City @ N.Y. Giants **Kansas City** Denver @ Buffalo Denver Arizona @ Houston Houston Carolina @ New Orleans Carolina N.Y. Jets @ Miami Miami Philadelphia @ St. Louis St. Louis Pittsburgh @ Minnesota Minnesota San Diego @ Indianapolis Indianapolis Seattle @ Tennessee Seattle San Francisco @ Jacksonville **Jacksonville** Cincinnati @ Detroit Cincinnati Cleveland @ Oakland Oakland Dallas @ Washington Washington Atlanta @ Chicago Chicago Green Bay @ Baltimore - 36 points 37 points

The Pig-Prog beat the NCOA in the Week 14 challenge. Looks like the Academy got *schooled*.

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Drug abuse ruins AF careers

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN ROJEK

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Recently, an officer at the Air Force Institute of Technology pleaded guilty to possession and use of cocaine in a general court-martial.

Maj. John Foresman was sentenced by a panel of officers to four months confinement, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and a dismissal, according to an Air Force News article. The major was charged with violating Article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

In 2005, 382 drug cases have been tried in the Air Force so far, according to the Automated Military Justice Administration Management System. In AETC, 57 percent of all cases brought to trial are drug use. At Tyndall, drug abuse accounts for 75 percent of all cases.

"Tyndall is like most of the Air Force, in that most of the military justice cases that go to trial are drug cases," said Capt. Robert Caridad, Base Legal Office assistant staff judge advocate.

Of all the cases tried in the Air Force, there are more than six times the number of drug cases as the next case, dereliction of duty, according to the AMJAMS.

"Those numbers reflect the number of times drug abuse has been charged," said Captain Caridad. "It could be the same person with multiple charges. For example, if someone was caught with Ecstasy and marijuana, there would be one charge of possession of Ecstasy and one charge for possession of marijuana. But this still shows a high percentage of drug cases throughout the Air Force."

Drug use can ruin an Airman's career, he said. The maximum sentence for possession of most drugs is five years confinement. The maximum sentence for the distribution of most drugs is 15 years confinement.

"Beyond its negative impact on the mission, drug abuse is an absolute career killer," said the captain. "Even those that are not court-martialed are subject to mandatory discharge processing."

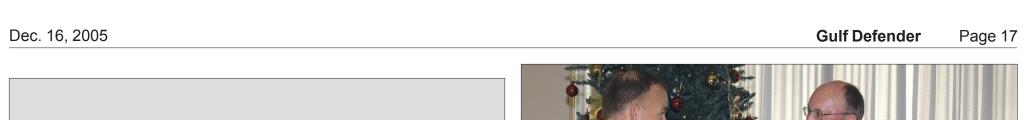
Not only can drug abuse affect an Airman's career, it can also affect their health, mentally and physically.

"The short-term affects of marijuana use include reduced short-term memory, reduced ability to perform tasks that require concentration and coordination, and paranoia," said Maj. Tena Buffington, 325th Medical Operations Squadron Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment program manager. "Long-term affects include increased cancer risk, and both a low sperm count in men and a risk of infertility in women."

"Drug abuse is a constant battle in the Air Force, just like in the civilian world," said Captain Caridad. "The stakes are just so much higher in the profession of arms."



Look ahead! The Checkertail Market is on Page 21. Search for cars, furniture and more. And placing an ad is free!





Isaac Gibsor

Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander, presents the Combined Federal Campaign check worth nearly \$233,000 to Ed Richards, United Way of Northwest Florida president, Monday at the Officers' Club.

Airmen honored for CFC contributions

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

More than 20 Airmen and five different Tyndall organizations were honored during a Combined Federal Campaign breakfast Monday here.

The breakfast was held to honor the CFC keyworkers and major contributors and to officially present the United Way of Northwest Florida with nearly \$233,000 in Tyndall CFC donations, which will be distributed to specific charities by the United Way.

"This has been a very, very successful year," said Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander, at the breakfast. "I want to thank all the keyworkers for their great work, dedication and support, and we're grateful for everyone who contributed to this great campaign."

The general said it's been a tough year, with many people needing help from Hurricanes

Katrina and Rita. He said the campaign contributions will not only help the hurricane survivors, but the monies will also help many servicemen in need.

"I'm told that one in four people in the Air Force will be affected either directly or indirectly by the results of the CFC," he said. "So we are helping our own and those across this great land."

Ed Richards, United Way of Northwest Florida president, attended the breakfast and accepted the check from the general.

"I want to say thank you all very much," Mr. Richards said. "You are taking care of so many people who need help, and we appreciate all that you do."

CFC is the largest workplace charity campaign in the country. This annual fall fundraising drive allows nearly 4 million federal employees and servicemembers to contribute to thousands of nonprofit organizations.

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Rules apply when giving, receiving gifts

GERRY J. GILMORE American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — As the traditional gift-giving season gets under way, American people, corporations and service groups are showing their gratitude to American servicemembers, especially those who are deployed, in combat zones or wounded.

"The outpouring from the public of goodwill, compassion and recognition for the sacrifices of these military personnel is remarkable and very grati-

fying," said Stephen Epstein, director of the Standards of Conduct Office within the DOD's Office of the General Counsel.

However, Mr. Epstein said, recent misunderstandings that have been reported in the media have surfaced about what can and can't be donated to servicemembers, including those who've been wounded.

Federal gift-giving rules apply to all servicemembers and their families. There is no distinction between wounded or non-wounded.

In general, military personnel and

unsolicited gifts as long as they are not offered because of their official position or from a "prohibited source."

A prohibited source is any person or group that: Seeks official action from the employee's agency; does or seeks to do business with his or

> her agency; conducts activities regulated by his or agency; or has interests that may

> > be substantially affected by the individual employee's official duties.

> > > Federal rules

define a gift as any gratuity, favor, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance or other item having monetary value. It includes services such as training, transportation, local travel, lodging and meals.

Ethics officials point out that since the rules involve many exemptions and exceptions, military personnel should consult their local judge advocates, legal counsel or ethics officials before accepting gifts.

For example, troops may accept coffee, doughnuts and other food and refreshments offered other than

their family members may accept as part of a meal. They may accept greeting cards, plaques, certificates and trophies and other items with little intrinsic value. They also may accept awards and prizes in contests open to the public.

> Another exception – commonly known as the \$20 rule – applies when gifts (other than cash) from a single source have a market value of \$20 or less. However, an employee may not accept over \$50 in gifts from the same source in a single year.

Troops also may accept items provided as "bulk gifts" to the military, such as 100,000 pairs of sunglasses. A service branch or appropriate commander can accept items and then re-distribute them as part of an authorized morale, welfare and recreation activity or patient support service.

"We have put out guidance, available on our Web site, to assist ethics counselors and commanders in the field so they understand what the rules are as far as accepting gifts," he said. A complete list of rules regarding gifts to servicemembers (www. defenselink.mil/dodgc/ defense ethics/dod oge/ gifts to servicemembers.doc) is posted on the site.

Attention dancers!

Mark your calendar for the first Checkertail Wing Swing, a night of dancing, food and fun with a 1940s theme scheduled for 5 p.m. Feb. 25. Dance lessons will be held every Wednesday at the E'Club beginning Jan. 4. For more information, call 283-4357.

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This week in Tyndall history

Dec. 21, 1940 - The exact location of Tyndall was decided, and the War Department eventually purchased the entire peninsula, all 29,000 acres.

AAFES, partners bring holiday season to troops

DALLAS – Just in time for the holidays, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service is working to get phone cards and gift certificates into the hands of deployed troops as quickly as possible through the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, Operation Homefront and Operation Interdependence®.

"It's the perfect time of year to welcome these partners to AAFES' troop support efforts, because millions of Americans are looking for ways to help during the holidays," said Lt. Col. Debra Pressley, AAFES chief of corporate communications. "This is not only the most difficult time to be deployed, it is also the most important time of year to let troops and their families know we are thinking of them."

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes focuses on the needs of wounded and hospitalized troops. Through the Coalition, "Gifts from the Homefront" and "Help Our Troops Call Home" phone cards will be distributed in Coalition programs that provide emergency financial support to wounded heroes and their families in need.

Operation Homefront strives to

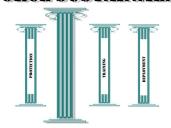
care for families left behind when troops deploy. Base Exchange gift certificates and phone cards distributed through Operation Homefront will provide much-needed support to military families while loved ones are abroad.

"We are so pleased to be added to AAFES' listing of elite nonprofits serving our military," said Amy Palmer, Operation Homefront's executive vice president. "We hope to continue to help military families all over the world and I believe this will make it a little easier to accomplish."

A Civilian-to-Military Delivery System® that provides a means for Americans to demonstrate their support for our deployed military, Operation Interdependence® takes American support directly to troops serving in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. Military Exchange Global Prepaid phone cards and BX gift certificates purchased through www.aafes.org will be included in care packages dubbed "Civilian Rations®," which are delivered to the troops monthly without negatively impacting the military delivery system.

Anyone can send a "Help Our

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



Troops Call Home" phone card by visiting www.aafes.org or calling 800-527-2345.

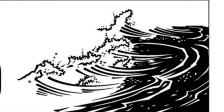
"Gift from the Homefront" gift certificates are also available at www.aafes.org or toll free at 877-770-4438. From there, purchasers may send the Military Exchange Global Prepaid phone card or Exchange gift certificate to individual Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors or Marines or to "any servicemember" by choosing to have their gift distributed through various organizations such as the American Red Cross and Air Force Aid Society.

"Troops tell us they miss being able to communicate with family and friends," said Colonel Pressley. "This is why providing troops with phone cards is one of the best gifts the American public could give this holiday season."

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-unshine



www.325thservices.com

www.325thservices.com













Free Movie Nites Tuesday at the E'Club 6 p.m.

Santa Clause 2 - (Rated G)

Scott Calvin has been Santa Claus for the past eight years, and loyal elves consider him the best Santa ever. But Santa's got problems (he's even mysteriously losing weight) and things quickly go south when he finds out that his son, Charlie, has landed on this year's "naughty" list. For details contact the E'Club 283-4146.

> Coming soon: "Wing Swing" Feb. 25 Learn to dance Sign-up now!

Attention Team Tyndall: Place a free classified ad in the Gulf Defender

Military classified ads are placed in the Gulf Defender on a space available basis. Ads must be for a one-time sale of personal goods and should include a complete description, 30 words or less, of item being sold. Forms must be turned in by 2 p.m. Thursday for publication in the following Friday's Gulf Defender. Completed forms can be dropped off or mailed to the 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office at 445 Suwannee Rd. Ste. 129 Tyndall AFB, FL 32403, or faxed to (850) 283-3225. Ads can also be sent in by e-mail to checkertailmarket@tyndall.af.mil.

Rank/Name	
Unit/Office Symbol_	
Duty Phone	
Home Phone	

Item description (One ad per form) (30 words or less)

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Tonight at the

Pizza Pub 8 p.m.

Wedding Crashers - (Rated R)

Vaughn and Wilson star as a pair

of divorce mediators who spend

in a search for Ms. Right. But when

one of them falls for the engaged

daughter of an influential and

eccentric politican at the social

event of the year, they get roped into spending a weekend at the

family's estate and find themselves

in over their heads. For details

contact the Pizza Pub 283-3222

Take a couple of minutes to give us your thoughts on how we can make the Gulf Defender better:

Did the front page grab your attention? Yes □ No □

Do you feel there is a good mix of local, command and Air Force-level news? Yes □ No □ Do the photos encourage you to read accompanied articles? Yes □ No □

Is the Gulf Defender easy to read and follow? Yes □ No □

What did you find most interesting in this week's paper?_

If you could change one thing in the paper, what would it be?

Comments:

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• From RAPTOR Page 1

The maintainers also learned some lessons about unit cohesiveness during this TDY, said Captain Christensen.

"One thing that happens when you go TDY is that you solidify your camaraderie," said the captain. "What we're hoping to bring back to Tyndall is the spirit and unit cohesion that we gained out there."

That unit cohesion helped in getting the squadron the highest mission effectiveness rate they've ever seen, said Colonel Stapleton.

"A DS-2 low observable maintenance team rebuilt the stealth capability on one of our jets out there in half the time that it takes to do normally," he said. "They (did) amazing work out there."

The colonel also praised the support of Nellis, which not only hosted Tyndall, but flew as adversaries. Jets and bases involved were F-16 Fighting Falcons from Nellis, Shaw AFB, S.C., and Sioux Falls, S.D., and F/A-18 Super Hornets from China Lake, Calif.

All that experience is what was really important, said Colonel Stapleton.

"The reason this deployment was so im-



Maj. Jeremy Durtschi, 43rd Fighter Squadron, completes a preflight inspection with Senior Airman Cassandra Goldurs, 43rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief Dec. 3.

portant to our mission at Tyndall is because it allows the instructors to train to the mission set," he said. "We can learn from books, briefings or from others. But the greatest teacher is experience."

What the squadron experienced was a great success both on the ground and in the air, said the colonel. But the important part was they came together to accomplish their mission.

"It was amazing to watch how well they worked together as a team," said Colonel Stapleton. "This was a big challenge and they succeeded. I am incredibly proud of them."

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Force in the world.

America asks much of its men and women in the service of our nation. Your resilience and devotion to defending our nation's freedom truly "warms my heart all over."

Let us also remember that through all the deployments, TDYs, long duty hours, and

unexpected taskings, our family members remain at our sides, supporting us through it all, rarely asking for anything in return. They are the foundation of our strength.

So as we reflect on the year's accomplishments, I encourage you to remember those who have gone before us, embrace those closest to you, and set your sights on a successful and healthy 2006. You make me proud to be your commander. Thank you for all you do, for who you are and what you stand for.

Moe and I, along with Col. Brian Dickerson and his dear wife Donna, wish all of you a Merry Christmas and the very best holiday season!



